

Desert Safety

Before putting on their backpacks for their next adventure, Felix and Felicia need to know how to stay safe in a desert environment. To prepare, the pair has been studying a safety handbook. Unfortunately, Felix spilled some water on the book and some of the information can't be read.

Can you help? Read each booklet page below. Fill in each blank with one of the words from the list on Felix's water bottle. Each word is used once.

Page 1

Carry at least one _____¹ of water per person, per day. You cannot be _____² to find water in the desert _____³.

Page 3

Learn how to use a *topographical map*, which shows land details, such as _____⁷. Also, learn how to use a compass. It's easy to become disoriented, or _____⁸, in the vast sea of sand.

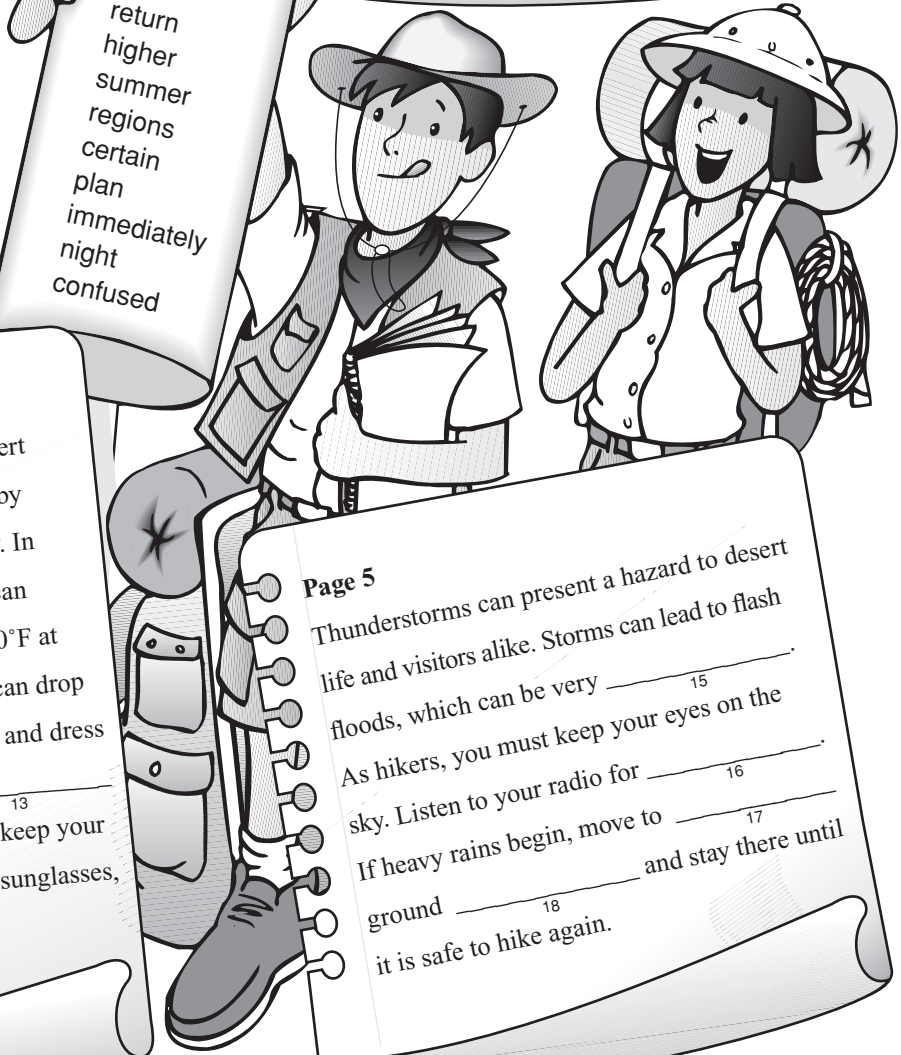
Page 4

Find out about the temperatures of the desert in which you are visiting. These can vary by _____⁹, so investigate carefully. In general, _____¹⁰ temperatures can reach 125°F in the day and drop below 50°F at _____¹¹. Winter temperatures can drop below freezing. Wear good hiking boots and dress in _____¹², so you can _____¹³ to the heat (or cold) as needed. Always keep your _____¹⁴ covered. Wear a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen to prevent sunburn.

Page 2

Use a map to _____⁴ your route. Tell at least one person where you are going and when you will _____⁵. Then stick with your plan. When you return, be sure to tell your contact person you are _____⁶.

- Word List**
- dangerous
 - gallon
 - skin
 - season
 - warnings
 - layers
 - adjust
 - heights
 - safe
 - return
 - higher
 - summer
 - regions
 - certain
 - plan
 - immediately
 - night
 - confused



Page 5

Thunderstorms can present a hazard to desert life and visitors alike. Storms can lead to flash floods, which can be very _____¹⁵. As hikers, you must keep your eyes on the sky. Listen to your radio for _____¹⁶. If heavy rains begin, move to _____¹⁷ ground _____¹⁸ and stay there until it is safe to hike again.





Answer Key



Page 1

Carry at least one gallon¹ of water per person, per day. You cannot be certain² to find water in the desert regions³.

Page 2

Use a map to plan⁴ your route. Tell at least one person where you are going and when you will return⁵. Then stick with your plan. When you return, be sure to tell your contact person you are safe⁶.

Page 3

Learn how to use a *topographical map*, which shows land details, such as heights⁷. Also, learn how to use a compass. It's easy to become disoriented, or confused⁸, in the vast sea of sand.

Page 4

Find out about the temperatures of the desert in which you are visiting. These can vary by season⁹, so investigate carefully. In general, summer¹⁰ temperatures can reach 125°F in the day and drop below 50°F at night¹¹. Winter temperatures can drop below freezing. Wear good hiking boots and dress in layers¹², so you can adjust¹³ to the heat (or cold) as needed. Always keep your skin¹⁴ covered. Wear a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen to prevent sunburn.

Page 5

Thunderstorms can present a hazard to desert life and visitors alike. Storms can lead to flash floods, which can be very dangerous¹⁵. As hikers, you must keep your eyes on the sky. Listen to your radio for warnings¹⁶. If heavy rains begin, move to higher ground¹⁷ immediately¹⁸ and stay there until it is safe to hike again.

